Pollution caused by Private Units

409. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India of the 27th February, 1989 under the caption "Pollution from private units to be checked";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make it compulsory for large scale private sector units in the country to obtain environmental clearance before starting the units; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Guidelines for siting of new industries have been framed and circulated to Ministries, State Governments and Pollution Control Boards. The guidelines provide that for twenty categories of polluting industries which have been identified, environmental clearance is necessary for conversion of letter of intent to industrial licence. These guidelines apply to private sector projects also. The guidelines provide that conversion of letter of intent to industrial licence is to be done only after the following conditions have been fulfilled:

(i) The State Director of Industries confirms that the site of the project has been approved from environmental angle by the competent State Authority.

(ii) The entrepreneur commits both to the State and Central Governments that he will instal appropriate equipment and implement the prescribed measures for prevention and control of pollution.

(iii) The concerned State Pollution Control Board has certified that the proposal meets with the environmental requirements and that the equipment installed or proposed to be installed are adequate and appropriate to the requirement.

At present, environmental clearance is accorded by the Ministry to thermal power, hydroelectric, ports and harbours, mining and industrial projects of central/public sector undertakings after a thorough environmental impact assessment and review. The requirement of approval from environmental angle by the competent State authority for large scale private sector units for issue of industrial lecence has been made mandatory from December, 1984 onwards. This stipulation is being followed since then. Towards this end, it will be necessary to build the capabilities for such detailed impact assessment techniques in the various State Governments/ State Pollution Control Boards and also ensure that financial institutions do look into these aspects at the time of extending credit for such projects.

Terrorist Killings in Punjab

410. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons killed by the terrorists in Punjab during the last two years. (quarterly figures) and up to the 31st March, 1989;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid by Government to the affected families; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for solving the Punjab problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to the information furnished by the Government of Punjab, the number of persons killed by terrorists in Punjab during the last two years (quarter-wise) is as follow:—

April 1987 to June 1987	226
July 1987 to September 1987	317
October 1987 to December 1987	198
January 1988 to March 1988	549
April 1988 to June 1988	717
July 1988 to September 1988	348
October 1988 to December 1988	335
January 1989 to March 1989	286

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The situation in Punjab is under constant review. A number of steps to curb terrorism and to restore peace in the State, including tightening of security measures at the border to check infiltration and smuggling of arms and ammunition from across the border have been taken. The Prime Minister had announced on March 3, 1989, a package of measures to start the normalisation process in the State. Action has been completed on a number of them, like the release of Jodhpur detenues, withdrawal of cases for objectionable speeches, removal of restrictions imposed on foreigners visiting Punjab, restriction of the Punjab Disturbed Areas Act and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act to the worst affected areas, steps to normalise Police functioning and evolving a monitoring mechanism to guard against Police excesses etc. It is also proposed to hold Panchayat elections in the State beginning from the middle of June, 1989. The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Punjab has also met leaders of different political parties and groups in Punjab on April 12, 1989.

Fire in Vandana Building in Connaught Place, New Delhi

411. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in the multi-storeyd Vandana Building in Connaught Place, New Delhi on the 8th April, 1989;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons killed/injured as a result thereof;

(c) what is the estimated loss of property due to this fire;

(d) what are the main causes of the fire;

(e) whether it is also a fact that this is the second incident of Fire in Connaught Place within a very short period; and

(f) if so, what measures are being taken by Government for the safety of the people working in the multistoreyed buildings in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) Rs. 50,000 approximately.

(d) It has not yet been possible to ascertain the cause of fire.

(e) There have been more than one incident.

(f) Notices for compliance of 12 essential fire safety measures have been issued to the defaulting building owners/occupiers of buildings constructed prior to 1983 under Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 and the rules framed there-under. In respect of buildings constructed after the notification of unified building bye-laws, the issuance of completion certificate has been made subject to the provision of fire safety measures verified by the Chief Fire Officer.

Production of Cloth in the Country

412. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production of cloth in the country during the last three years, yearwise and sector wise;

(b) what was the respective perceatage of cotton used in this cloth;

(c) what was the total consumption of cloth in the country during the above period; and

(d) what was the quantum of cloth exported during the last three years yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The total cloth pro-